

## **Environmental Defense Offers Suggestions for Corps Projects**

Thoughtful observers from outside the Corps of Engineers are often able to bring a perspective to our work that is less visible to those directly involved in it; and have, in the past, played a major role in changing the emphases in our missions.

James Tripp, General Counsel for Environmental Defense, has been such an observer for nearly 30 years. He has supported the Corps at times - such as on expanding the scope of our regulatory program under the Clean Water Act - and has opposed us in court on several project proposals, some of which were changed or dropped as a result. In keeping with this page's intent to provide diverse views on our activities, we offer his ideas on the general direction of our water resources program, and specifically on a major new study - restoring the eroding coastal wetlands of Louisiana.

Mr. Tripp makes the point that the solution to one problem often contains the seeds of another. This has often been the case with Corps of Engineers efforts to meet such national priorities of the time as safe navigation channels, prevention flood damages, hydroelectric power, water supply, recreation, etc. We succeed in these missions, but often at the price of altering the natural ecosystem.

We are trying very hard to change the Corps of Engineers and its fundamental approach to addressing water resources challenges in the direction Mr. Tripp advocates - an approach spelled out in our [Environmental Operating Principles](#) For more information:

["A Restoration Agenda for the Corps and Opportunities for Partnership with Environmental Defense"](#), James T.B. Tripp, General Counsel, Environmental Defense

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